

County of San Diego Sweetwater Community Planning Group

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY

November 1, 2011 7:00PM

Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Station 4900 Bonita Road, Bonita, CA 91902

Administrative Items

Roll: John and Harriet Taylor, Steve and Liz Stonehouse, Rick Blacklock, Mark Kukuchek, Sheri Todus, and Andrew Valencia, Uwe Werner, Doc Stokos, Alan Sachrison.

Excused: Don and Georjean Jensen. Don Scovel.

Member to be appointed.

Item #1: Minutes: Move to approve Rick. Seconded John Taylor, Approved.

Item #2: Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Planning Group on any subject within Planning Group's purview but not on the agenda. Presentations are limited to three minutes and no action can be taken.

Michael De La Rosa's comments tabled until later in the meeting.

Special Report

Item #3: Introduction of New Parks and Recreation Dept. Representative Patrick McDonough with a discussion of Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLPO) Projects. Action Item. Other improvements proposed.

Patrick McDonough has taken over Gustavo Godoy's position as a senior manager of the area. He has managed many projects and areas in the County among them the Tijuana River Valley and now the Sweetwater River Valley. Of all the options on our CIP list, several fall under the PLDO umbrella. Number one, which is the removal of the chain and lock from the gate to the horse trail on County Water Authority property: that is a political issue.

One of the projects we are actively involved in right now is the remodeling and refurbishing of the History Center in Rhor Park. It's the house on Sweetwater Road between old Rhor Park and the old Sweetwater Park. This building has held Parks and Rec artifacts. Parking is not part of the project.

Because of the water feature, the park fills up very quickly on hot days, and more parking is needed. We are working on that too. We are hoping to put fifty to sixty spaces in the dirt area past the turnaround. Right now there are to be no lights, but the grading is an issue so this one is still in negotiations.

Phase 3 Trail between the Western Gateway and Willow Street has been funded. We are trying for a multi-use trail but there can't be a lot of maintenance because of the river flooding.

Mark suggested rock and DG which was less likely to wash away in rains.

Patrick also mentioned the inclusion of a bridge to cross the river which would have to withstand a twenty-five to one hundred year flood.

Parks and Rec received a federal grant to hire an electrical contractor to put solar panels in which would give a lot more electricity to Summit Park. The idea is to not put them on top of the Community Room but to put them in the triangle of land between the roads where they will be less visible and to put a fence around them.

Harriet asked when this was going to happen as this was the first we had heard of them. Harriet also wanted to know how visible they would be.

Patrick did not know but promised to keep us apprised of the situation there. Uwe said that solar panels on top of the building shouldn't bother anyone.

Item number 5 on our PLDO list is for a challenge course to be placed at Morrison Pond. That has been started in the wide area between the parking lot and the Pond.

Item number 7 which asks for tie rails and a picnic table or bench at the new rest area at the top of Red Hill has been completed.

Item number 6 which was a gate at Conduit Road to prevent unauthorized usage of the Sweetwater Trail has been done.

For items two and three, which concern lodge-pole fencing, estimates are being considered for both the Stephanie Rossi and the Western Staging Area.

There was discussion about a skateboard area; the most serious consideration for that is that the County will not accept liability.

Harriet suggested that a second kiosk be placed at Summit Park to allow people who have already paid to reenter the park if they have to leave during the day. Also, could we put more trees in the park, not only for shade, but for light abatement.

Patrick responded that Gustavo was going to finish Summit Park.

As for a question about Procter Valley Road, which Michael De La Rosa said was ongoing, he admitted that he was going slowly so as to not miss anything that was going on about that one.

Michael said that the Bonita Meadows conservators do not want a trail.

Harriet mentioned that in Santee the trail there had been Mission Gorge Road.

Mark asked about a pathway for Acacia Road, which is not only a historic trail but a designated pathway. It's a very busy road and both bikers and horsemen use it to cross into the Chula Vista trail system. Acacia Road is a critical link between Chula Vista and the Sweetwater Trail System.

Item #4: State Mandated Ethics Training: (AB 1234) ca-ilg.org/ab1234compliance. Required.

Seven people have various reasons for noncompliance. The County is not going to have in-person training. Item tabled until information can be gathered concerning self-study program, which is an option.

There are computers at the library.

Item #5: Trails report: Mark Kukuchek:

There is not a round pen at Morrison Pond to exercise mounts. Two barbecues and two picnic tables have been added. Thanks to Louise Chetkow and Larry Duke for these improvements.

The homeless camp on the Swap Meet trail have been eliminated. There is hope that the community will put pressure on Sweetwater Authority to allow the completion of the loop trail around the reservoir.

Item #6: Michael De La Rosa from Supervisor Cox's office gave this report:

A. Redistricting took effect October 27th. District one lost area in Downtown from Crown Point and Point Loma, but gained Paradise Hills. District one kept a portion of Coronado and area around the Bay including the airport, the Barrio, and Otay Mesa along with Sweetwater Valley.

The reason for this split is that according to the Voter's Rights Act, the districts have to be a majority/minority split. This means voters, not residents. The NAACP argued that this area did not comply with the law.

B. Karen Henry is still not confirmed.

C. Otay Water. The pipe project seems to have ground to a halt at this time.

Alan requested that Otay Water make the pipe of the pipeline large enough so that it will not have to be replaced in his lifetime.

This pipe is supposed to supply water for fifty years.

There followed another discussion about the loop trails.

Item #7: Announcements

John T mentioned that there were sold signs on the property next door to the Fire Station and also the land across from Central and Sweetwater Road.

Next month there will be a presentation by Otay Water.

Motion to adjourn Rick. Second by Doc.

Adjourned 8:10 pm

Next meeting: December 6, 2011 7PM, Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Station.

Respectfully submitted
Liz Stonehouse, Secretary.

